

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 14 are amended and claim 18 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7, 18 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 14, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Billet (U.S. Patent No. 6,010,205); rejects claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Billet in view of Adler (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,148); rejects claims 10, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Billet in view of Adler, and further in view of Takanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,347,855); rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Billet in view of Adler, and further in view of Murcia (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,187); and rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Billet in view of Lapstun (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,596). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 14 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 18, and thus defines patentable subject matter. Claims 15-17 and 19-20 depend on independent claim 14, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

Independent claims 1 and 8 further recite "performing one of a left imaging pass by starting a secondary imaging pass right of the primary imaging pass such that the enabled neighboring operational ink jet is lined up horizontally where the disabled ink jet started on the primary imaging pass, and a right imaging pass by starting a secondary imaging pass left

of the primary imaging pass such that the enabled neighboring operational ink jet is lined up horizontally where the disabled ink jet started on the primary imaging pass."

The Office Action at page 8, item 10, has indicated that none of the references disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the claims.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-7 and 9-13 depend on the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

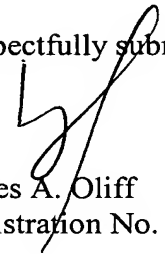
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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